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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST *

No. 569

December 1, 1944

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA TO FURNISH HEMP SUPPLY. The 2-year experiment in raising hemp in Iowa has been discontinued, since importation of sufficient rope material at less cost is now possible from Central and South America. The experiment, carried on in Iowa and 5 other Midwestern States was successful.
(New York Times, 11/26/44)

BANANA PRICES REDUCED. Effective December 4, the ceiling on bananas from Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Honduras has been dropped 50 cents a hundred pounds, to \$4.50 at the entry port. The OPA also reduced the auction mark-up 6 cents a hundred pounds, and housewives will pay about 1 cent less a pound.
(Washington Evening Star, 11/28/44)

SHUTTLE SERVICE FOR CUBAN SUGAR RENEWED. With ship space short, plans are under way to resume importation of raw sugar via shuttle service in barges and small ships from Cuba to Tampa and the Everglades. The shuttle service has been in use at various times previously, but always it is dependent upon the supply of box-cars to transport the sugar from the Florida port to Eastern refineries.
(Journal of Commerce, 11/28/44)

ECUADOR EXPORTING RUBBER TO U. S. In October Ecuador exported to the U. S. 1,190,160 pounds of crude rubber, bringing the total for the first 10 months of 1944 to approximately 4,628,400 pounds. (New York Times, 11/26/44)

PRICE CEILINGS ON FOODS ESTABLISHED IN MEXICO. The Secretariat of the Treasury and the Federal District Department has made public a decree whereby wholesale and retail ceiling prices will be enforced in the Federal District on such essential foodstuffs as rice, coffee, beans, wheat, beef, milk, lard, sugar, bread, and salt. Official price indexes released by the Bank of Mexico show that prices on 16 basic foodstuffs have increased 97.30 percent between January 1943 and November 10, 1944. (New York Times, 11/25/44)

MEXICO GRANTS SUBSIDY FOR LIME. The Mexican Government has granted a subsidy for a maximum importation of 1,000 metric tons of dehydrated lime for use in combating a banana pest. (Journal of Commerce, 11/29/44)

MEXICO TO HAVE NEW OIL PIPE-LINE. A new pipe-line, with a 30,000-barrel daily capacity for carrying oil is to be constructed between Pozarica, Vera Cruz State, and Irapuato, Guanajuato State, at an approximate cost of \$11,000,000. Work will begin in December on the new line, which is designed particularly to improve the distribution of petroleum and its derivatives throughout central Mexico.
(New York Times, 11/26/44)

MEXICO TO ERECT DAM. An irrigation board has been formed by the Mexican Government to supervise the construction of a \$3,000,000 dam over the Sonora River near Hermosillo. The cost of the dam will be divided between the Federal and State Governments. (New York Times, 11/28/44)

URUGUAY'S WOOL DELIVERIES INCREASED. Deliveries of wool from the interior to Montevideo, Uruguay, have increased some 134,312,200 pounds during the first 11 months of the current season over the corresponding period of the preceding season. Exports are nearly 15,000 bales of 500 pounds each greater than in the 1942-43 season. (Journal of Commerce, 11/27/44)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 570

December 8, 1944

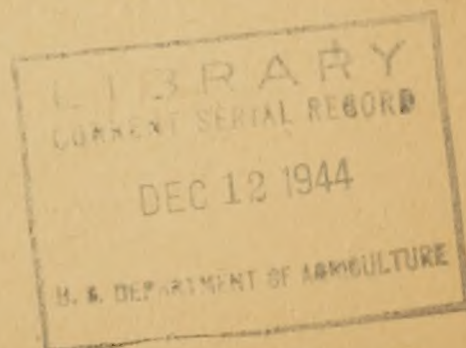
SOUTH AMERICAN HIDES FOR LIBERATED EUROPE. Under the allocation arrangement announced by the Combined Raw Materials Board the U. S. will contribute 87,500 hides, the United Kingdom 45,000, and Canada 13,500. This corresponds roughly to the $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 quota key used by the Board in dividing up South American hides between the U. S. and the United Kingdom under the joint purchase agreement. The new allocation for liberated Europe means that the number of hides stipulated will have to come out of supplies which otherwise would have gone to the U. S., Great Britain, and Canada. (New York Journal of Commerce, 12/1/44)

MORE NATURAL RUBBER NEEDED. A report recently made public by the Rubber Development corporation shows a decline in stock piles of natural rubber between January 1 and September 30 of this year. Although importations have increased during that time from Latin America and Liberia, war demands for heavy-duty tires are increasing. (Christian Science Monitor, 12/2/44)

BRAZIL GETS BEEF FROM ARGENTINA. The acute economic need in Brazil necessitated a request to Argentina for speedy shipments of beef, butter, and other food supplies. An Argentine ship reached the Brazilian capital early in December with 500 tons of beef and another carrying 1500 tons was expected soon. Rio de Janeiro had been without beef for more than a week. The Secretary of Agriculture for the State of São Paulo stated that his State was importing cows from Argentina in an attempt to end the serious milk shortage. (Washington Post, 12/3/44)

UNION CHARTERS CANCELED IN CHILEAN MEAT STRIKE. The Chilean Government has canceled the charters of all unions connected with the meat industry as a result of the strikes and market closings which left Santiago meatless for 4 days. (Christian Science Monitor, 11/29/44)

OFFER MADE TO PUERTO RICO FOR SUGAR. The Commodity Credit Corporation has offered to purchase the 1945 Puerto Rican sugar crop at 3.75 cents a pound plus an incentive payment of 40 points. This means a f.o.b. Puerto Rican price of 3.46 cents. Of the incentive payment, the mills receive about 35 percent, the remaining 65 percent going to the planter, who would have to divide it with labor. The Puerto Ricans are holding out for a 50-point incentive payment. (New York Journal of Commerce, 12/2/44)



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST*

No. 571

December 15, 1944

SENATE RATIFIES SUGAR PACT WITH 16 NATIONS. The Senate has recently ratified a treaty between the U. S. and 16 other nations continuing sugar importation and marketing quotas. The protocol, signed at London last August, extends until August 31, 1945, the International Sugar Compact which was first negotiated in 1937. Besides the U. S., other nations signing the sugar agreement were the Philippines, United Kingdom, Russia, South Africa, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, the Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, and Poland. (Washington Post, 12/7/44)

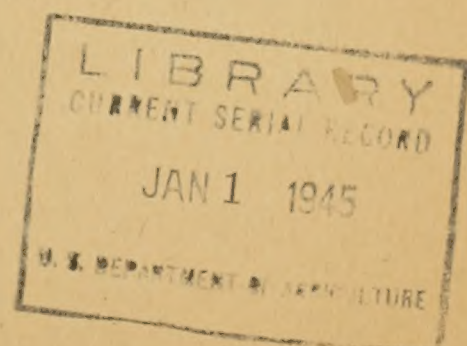
BRAZIL SENDS SILK HOSE TO CANADA. Samples of women's sheer silk hose made in Brazil are on their way to Ottawa, Canada, by air express. They may not be offered for sale, however, since the Prices Board's retail ceiling price for women's hose is less than the importer's actual cost. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce, 12/11/44)

GUATEMALA EXTENDS CREDIT FOR COFFEE HARVESTS. The Government Farm Loan Bank of Guatemala is to grant a credit of \$1,000,000 to finance harvesting of the crops on the coffee plantations of Germans now being administered by the Alien Property Custodian. The harvest is expected to be 2,500,000 pounds. A coffee pest which is new to Guatemala has been discovered in the neighborhood of Alte Verapaz and steps are being taken to control it. This pest is understood to have come from abroad. (New York Times, 12/4/44)

MEXICO TO RESUME EXPORTS OF OIL TO OTHER NATIONS. Mexico is about to resume the exportation of oil to nations other than the U. S. and Great Britain after several years of suspension forced by the war. A Swedish tanker has arrived at Tampico to take on oil. (New York Times, 12/10/44)

"WOOL" FIBER MADE FROM PEANUTS. Experiments have produced a new synthetic wool fiber from peanuts, which is readily adaptable to mixture with real wool, cotton, and rayon. The synthetic fiber, called ardil, is made from protein from the peanuts after oil for industrial uses has been extracted. The residue is usable as cattle feed. The fiber is expected to yield warm, mothproof clothing, which takes dyes well, at a cost of production estimated to be about the same as the present cost of rayon. (New York Times, and Washington Post, 12/13/44)

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No. 572

December 22, 1944

SUNFLOWER MEAL FROM SOUTH AMERICA. Approximately 6,054,900 bags of sunflower meal, a relatively new item, have arrived from South America recently. Although the meal was purchased in South America for use in dairy feed, some of it may find its way into fertilizer mixtures, in view of the more comfortable supply situation existing in feed supplies and the growing demand for fertilizers.
(N. Y. Journal of Commerce, 12/13/44)

PRICE OF QUEBRACHO RISES. An advance of 3/4 cents a pound in the shipping price of quebracho extract has been made in Argentina. This is the first major change in the price of quebracho that has been made in several years.
(N. Y. Journal of Commerce, 12/14/44)

REQUESTS FOR ARGENTINE WOOL GRANTED. WPB has granted a number of requests for the importation of Argentine wool. Information concerning disposition of such requests is, however, highly confidential, and, in view of the shipping situation, space for such imports will probably remain tight for the coming months.
(N. Y. Journal of Commerce, 12/14/44)

NEW BRAZILIAN COFFEE CHIEF APPOINTED. President Vargas has appointed Ovidio de Abreu as president of the National Coffee Department. Senhor de Abreu recently spent a year in the U. S. (New York Times, 12/19/44)

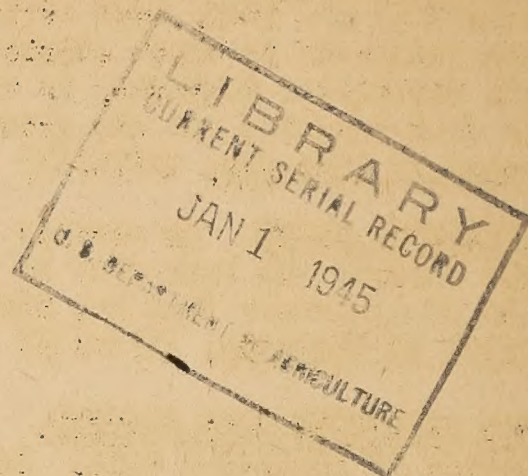
COFFEE CONGRESS OPENS IN COLOMBIA. A coffee congress opened early this week in Ibagué, Colombia, composed of government officials, representatives of the National Coffee Federation, and members of Congress. The chief object of the meeting is said to be to increase the price of coffee by breaking through the ceiling established in the U. S., for which purpose the congress plans to send a commission to Washington. (New York Times, 12/18/44)

COSTA RICAN PORT CUT OFF. Costa Rica's Atlantic port, Limón, has been largely isolated as a result of slides and washouts on the Northern Railway. The U.S. Government is reported, in San José, to have offered a ship to carry food from the Pacific port of Punta Arenas to Limón through the Panama Canal. Traffic on the Northern Railway is likely to be interrupted for several weeks. (New York Times, 12/17/44)

RELIEF NEEDED IN GUATEMALA. The constantly increasing cost of living in Guatemala especially the high price of corn, beans, and lard, is causing so much suffering to workers and their families that government aid is asked.
(New York Times, 12/18/44)

LATIN AMERICANS CONTRIBUTE TO UNRRA. Latin American countries have agreed to contribute about \$45,000,000 to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Ten percent of this will be in cash and the rest in goods. The contributions will be from surpluses found in all the countries by the mission which has recently visited 15 Western Hemisphere nations. Chile's contribution will be largely in agricultural produce, non-metallic minerals, and industrial manufacture. Indications are good in Chile that the 1945 harvest of most agricultural produce will be above normal. The Chilean harvest is usually gathered in the January-April period. (New York Times, 12/18/44 and Christian Science Monitor, 12/16/44)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST *

No. 573

December 29, 1944

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION: In cooperation with the Government-wide effort to conserve existing supplies of paper and to reduce the volume of mail going out in penalty envelopes, the publication of the Latin American News Digest is being suspended with this issue.

ABAGA ARRIVING FROM PHILIPPINES. Small quantities of abacá are already coming into the U. S. from the Islands of Leyte and Samar. The estimates are that the 8 to 10 million pounds of the fiber that can be expected from those islands next year plus the 65,000,000 pounds expected from the United Fruit plantations in Latin America will amount to about three-fourths the normal supply of the fiber. Demand is now estimated at 1-1/2 times that of pre-war days. Most of the available abacá is to be used for Army, Navy, and WSA purposes only.
(N.Y. Journal of Commerce, 12/21/44)

ARGENTINA BANS FLAXSEED EXPORTS. The Argentine authorities have forbidden further foreign sales of flaxseed. (New York Times, 12/24/44)

BRAZIL SEEKS IMMIGRANTS. The Secretary of Agriculture of the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil, has named a commission to draw up a general plan for the settlement of 100,000 European immigrants in the State after the war. About 20,000 families, preferably Italians, are sought, who will be placed in groups together with Brazilians, in various parts of the State. The colonists will be supplied with medical services and the Government will probably furnish certain farm machinery and equipment. (New York Times, 12/25/44)

BRAZILIAN COFFEE GROWERS SEEK HIGHER PRICE FOR COFFEE. The Brazilian Rural Association and the Association of Coffee Growers have sent a telegram to the President of Brazil pointing out that a price of 20 cents a pound for coffee "is the minimum required to cover present average costs of production."
(N. Y. Journal of Commerce, 12/26/44)

MEXICO ENCOURAGING EXPANSION OF SUGAR INDUSTRY. As part of its program to provide sugar enough for all its needs, the Mexican Government is assuring investors in sugar centrals that liberal concessions and tax exemptions will be made. The plan has been worked out by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.
(N.Y. Journal of Commerce, 12/20/44)

PUERTO RICAN SUGAR CROP HIGHER. The Puerto Rican sugar crop, which will be harvested between now and June, is estimated to be 15 percent greater than the 1944 harvest. Puerto Rico is asking an increase of 40 cents per hundredweight over the present price. (Christian Science Monitor, 12/22/44)

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